

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4428
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 7402

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, IT, FR, UK, GW, US
SUBJECT: GOI PROTESTS TO BRITAIN, FRANCE AND FRG ON REPORTED
EXPANSION OF BERLIN GROUP AGENDA

REF: ROME 7344 (NOTAL)

1. EMBOFF WAS INVITED TO MFA MORNING MAY 6, AT REQUEST
OF DIRGEN FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS GARDINI, TO RECEIVE THE
FOLLOWING "FOR INFORMATION ONLY".

2. AT BEHEST OF PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI AND FORMIN
FORLANI, GARDINI ON MAY 5 CALLED IN FRG AMBASSADOR AND
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BRITISH AND FRENCH CHARGE'S TO RECEIVE GOI DEMARCHE CON-
CERNING REPORTED INTENTION OF THE FOUR-POWER BERLIN GROUP,
MEETING IN LONDON ON MAY 9 (WITH PRESIDENT CARTER IN
ATTENDANCE), TO COVER INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS
GOING BEYOND THE NORMAL RANGE OF BERLIN-RELATED AFFAIRS.
GARDINI TOLD ENVOYS THAT GOI UNDERSTOOD AGENDA WOULD
INCLUDE A REVIEW OF THE IMPRESSIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

DRAWN BY GISCARD FROM HIS PARTICIPATION AT THE RECENT
FRANCOPHONE MEETING IN DAKAR.

3. GARDINI SAID HE FEARED UNFORTUNATE PUBLIC REPER-
CUSSIONS IN ITALY, AND ELSEWHERE IN EUROPE IF OR WHEN
IT BECOMES KNOWN THAT THREE MEMBERS OF THE NINE, ONE NOW
HOLDING THE PRESIDENCY, ENGAGED IN SUCH CONSULTATIONS IN
THE "BERLIN GROUP" FORUM WITH NO REPEAT NO PRIOR CONSULTA-
TIONS WITHIN THE NINE. HE ADDED, MOREOVER, THAT SUCH A
MEETING WOULD SMACK UNPLEASANTLY OF A "FOUR POWER DIRECTOR-
ATE" WITHIN THE NATO ALLIANCE.

4. GARDINI IS SAID TO HAVE REGISTERED HIS UNDERSTANDING
THAT THE EXPANDED AGENDA IS NOT REPEAT NOT ON U.S.
INITIATIVE. HE NOTED, TO CONTRARY, THAT ITALY HAD RECEIVED
WITH FAVOR THE CARTER COMMITMENT TO FURTHER CONSULTATION
ON BOTH ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SUBJECTS WITH, AND WITHIN,
THE COMMUNITY AND THE ALLIANCE.

5. THE THREE MISSION HEADS UNDERTOOK TO REPORT GOI VIEWS
TO CAPITALS. FRG AMBASSADOR SAID HIS GOVERNMENT INTENDED
PARTICIPATE IN BERLIN GROUP MEETING BUT THAT, SO FAR AS HE
KNEW, THE AGENDA WOULD NOT EXCEED ITS NORMAL SCOPE AND
COMPETENCE.

6. MFA OFFICER RELAYING FOREGOING TO EMBOFF STRESSED
IT WAS NOT A DEMARCHE, BUT AN INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION
ONLY. GARDNER

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